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29. A composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴ in which the particles have an activated micropore system.

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30. A composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴ in which the particles have a pore area of at least 25 m²/g in the pore size range of from about 20 to about 50 Angstroms.

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31. A composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴ in which the particles have a BET surface area of at least 200 m²/g.

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32. A composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴ in which the particles have a BET surface area of at least 300 m²/g.

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33. A composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴ in which the particles have a biocide adsorption capacity of at least 10% by weight.

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34. A composition as claimed in claim 26 in which the particles are constituted by a material selected from a group consisting of amorphous silicas, Y-zeolites, dealuminated Y-zeolites and mixtures of two or more of these.

33
35. A liquid-based medium incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.

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36. A surface coating formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26²⁴.

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37. A surface coating formulation as claimed in claim 36³⁴ in the form of a paint or lacquer.

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38. A surface coating formulation as claimed in claim 36³⁴ in the form of a water-based or organic solvent-based paint.

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39. A surface cleaning formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.²⁴

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40. A sealant formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.²⁴

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41. A tiling, grouting or cement-based formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.²⁴

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42. A mud drilling formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.²⁴

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43. A method of producing a biocidally-protected formulation comprising one or more components and a biocide, in which the biocide is introduced into the formulation by means of a particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.²⁴

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44. A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the biocide is selected from isothiazolones, derivatives of isothiazolones and mixtures thereof.

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45. A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 60% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure and/or thermal ageing for 40 days under the conditions defined hereinbefore.

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46. A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 80% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure and/or thermal ageing for 40 days under the conditions defined hereinbefore.